Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-5 and 9 are now in the application. Claims 1, 4, and 5 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on separate pages. Independent claim 9 has been added. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

In item 3 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner stated that "the means for rotating said cutting cylinder and said transfer cylinder" as set forth in claim 5, and the "means for rotating said transfer cylinder" as set forth in claim 6 must be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claim(s). Claim 5 has been amended so as to overcome the objection to the drawings by the Examiner. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1-6 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that in claim 1, line 3, "cutting cylinder" is vague and indefinite and appears to be inaccurate because the disclosed feature is not cylindrical, and thus the scope of the limitation using this

change "cutting cylinder" to --rotary cutter-- or the like.

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection. The term "cutting cylinder" has been replaced with the term "rotary cutter". However, it is noted for the record that the term "cutting cylinder" is not inaccurate in the context. The term cylinder as defined in Chamber's Technical Dictionary on page 220, enclosed with this amendment, defines a cylinder as a solid uniform cross-section which may be generated by a straight line moving round a closed curve and remaining parallel to a given direction. Apparently, what the Examiner deems as a cylinder is actually a "right circular cylinder" for which the closed curve is a circle whose plane is perpendicular to the axis of the cylinder.

The Examiner further stated that in claim 4, the recitation "each connected to" renders the claim vague and indefinite, particularly since it seems that the gripper and tucking blade are each part of the transfer cylinder and it's not clear how they can be both part of and connected to the transfer cylinder. Claim 4 has been amended so as to overcome the rejection.

It is accordingly believed that the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further

objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 6 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 1-6 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Barber (U.S. Patent No. 2,222,279) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 7 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Elsner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,363,728) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

"an adjustable diameter portion disposed in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder, said adjustable diameter portion being movable in a direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis, said adjustable diameter portion adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures."

The Barber reference discloses handling two different sized products of a rotary web printing press, one where the form cylinder is an even number of plates around and the other where the form cylinder is an odd number of plates around (page 1, column 1, lines 1-6). Barber discloses two independently operating units, each used for a different size signature, where only one unit is operational at any given time (page 1, column 1, lines 7-25).

Clearly, the reference does not show an adjustable diameter portion disposed in the circumferential region of the transfer cylinder for adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Barber discloses handling of only two different sized signatures, each of which is handled by a separate unit while the other unit is not operational. Barber does not disclose any kind of adjusting of a transfer cylinder to produce signatures of varying length. This is completely contrary to the invention of the instant application, in which adjusting

the adjustable diameter portion can produce signatures of varying length by merely adjusting the adjustable diameter portion.

The Elsner et al. reference discloses a web cutter with a knife roll (12) located above an anvil roll (14). The knife roll contains a plurality of fixed cutting knives (32) and the anvil roll (14) contains a plurality of fixed anvils (40) for cutting signatures of a constant length. The anvil roll also includes a lift plate (42) located immediately upstream of each anvil (40) (column 2 lines 40-62). The lift plates (42) are provided for the purpose of raising the severed lead end of the web above the anvil (40), in order to assure proper feeding to the discharge conveyor over guideplate (26). The Elsner et al. reference further discloses that after the cut is made by the cutting knives (32) and the anvils (40) the lead edge (56) of the lift plate (42) engages the lower surface of the web and holds the web against the adjacent edge of the knife roll (12) (column 3, lines 31-37).

Clearly, the reference does not show an adjustable diameter portion disposed in the circumferential region of the transfer cylinder for adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. The Elsner et al. reference discloses a web cutter for cutting webs of constant length, the lift plate (42) provided by the

reference is used only for the purpose of raising the severed lead end of the web above the anvil (40), in order to assure proper feeding to the discharge conveyor over guideplate (26). The lift plate is in no way used to vary the length of the signature, as it does not contact the lower surface of the web until after the cut is made. This is completely contrary to the invention of the instant application, in which adjusting the adjustable diameter portion can produce signatures of varying length.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest an adjustable diameter portion disposed in the circumferential region of the transfer cylinder, the adjustable diameter portion being movable in a direction toward and away from the central cylinder axis, the adjustable diameter portion adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well. Claim is patentable on similar grounds as claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 and 9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfull

submitte

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG REG. NO. 29,308

For Applicant(s)

AKD:cgm

March 21, 2002

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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 1 (twice-amended). A variable length cutting device, comprising:

a [cutting cylinder] rotary cutter;

a transfer cylinder cooperating with said [cutting cylinder]

rotary cutter for cutting a ribbon into signatures having a desired cutoff length, said transfer cylinder having a central cylinder axis and a circumferential region; and

an adjustable diameter portion disposed in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder, said adjustable diameter portion being movable in a direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis [for] ,said adjustable diameter portion adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures.

Claim 4 (amended). The cutting device according to claim 1, including a gripper and a tucking blade each [connected]

mounted to said transfer cylinder and disposed in said circumferential region at a fixed distance from said central

cylinder axis, and said adjustable diameter portion being located between said gripper and said tucking blade.

Claim 5 (twice-amended). The cutting device according to claim 1, including a cutting blade fixed to said [cutting cylinder] rotary cutter and a cutting ledge disposed in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder for cooperating with said cutting blade[, and means for rotating said cutting cylinder and said transfer cylinder in synchronism].

Claim 9 (new). A variable length cutting device, comprising:

a rotary cutter;

a transfer cylinder cooperating with said rotary cutter for cutting a ribbon into signatures having a desired cutoff length, said transfer cylinder having a central cylinder axis and a circumferential region carrying the ribbon during a cutting operation; and

an adjustable diameter portion disposed in said

circumferential region of said transfer cylinder, said

adjustable diameter portion being movable in a direction

toward and away from said central cylinder axis, said

adjustable diameter portion adjusting the desired cutoff

length of the signatures by selectively shortening and
lengthening the circumferential region carrying the ribbon.

CHAMBERS'S

TECHNICAL DICTIONARY

Edited by C. F. TWENEY

L. E. C. HUGHES A.C.G.I., D.I.C., B.Sc.(Eng.), Ph.D., M.I.E.E., F.R.S.A.

Third Edition Revised, with Supplement

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY NEW YORK

cyclobexane (Chem.). C₁H₁₁, m.p. 2° C., b.p. 31°C., sp. gr. 0.78, a colourless liquid, of mild ethereal odour. cyclohexanol (Chem.). CaH11.0H, m.p. 16° C., p. 160° C., sp. gr. 0.946, an olly, colourless

cyclohexanone (Chem.). Keto-hexamethylene, P.p. 154°-156° C., sp. gr. 0-916, a colour-se liquid, of acctone-like ofton; olivent for cellulose lacquers. cycloparaffins (Chem.). See cyclange. cyclocorile. (Zool.). Having a spirally colled intestine.

Total and the state of the state of the state of the state of a cyclograph.

Syclograph (Elec. Bry). The figure produced on cyclograph.

Shem of light or, cathod, rays is made of move under the action of two controlling forces at right-anglest on each other, thereby producing a closed figure (cyclogram) on the screen.

If on power-driven rotors rotaling on horizontal axes.

cycloid. The curved path traced out by a point on the circumference of a circle which rolls along

a straight line.

Cycloid (Prychiatry). A periodic state of alternating moods, swinging from depression to exhibaration; accompanied by a social extrawerted type of piersonality. It occurs in the pyknic (η.ν.) type of individual and is a normal disposition; in its extreme form this state may develop into cycloid (Zool.). Evening curved; said of social which have an evenity curved; and of social extreme (Eur.). Evening curved; and of social etch (Eng.). Genrybed free border. flank profiles consist of cycloid curves. See cycloid.

cyclom eter. A revolution counter calibrated in miles or kilometres, driven by the wheel of a pedal bicycle to record the distance travelled.

Cyclome (Alteror). See Dolloilda.

Cyclome (Alteror). A depression of small area but considerable pressure gradient, in which the winds attain hurricans force and often do much damage. Cyclones occur, principally towards the bole grad of hot seasons, round the western borders of

cyclone (Mining): (1) A conteal dry-alr classifier for alr-sizing finely powdered material.—(2) A dust

Cyclope an (Build.). A name given to ancient drymasonry works in which the stones are colossal
and are irregular in size.
Cyclopic gita (Mrd.). Paralysis of the ciliary muscle.
Cyclopid larva (Zool.). A larval type of certain
Elymenopiera which bears a superficial resemblance
Cycloram's (Ginema.). The portion of dome,
back of a stage in a theate, and on which light
Cyclorais (Biot.). The circulation of protoplasm
within a cell. The circulation of protoplasm

cyclosper mous (Bot.). Having the embryo colled round the endosperm.
cyclospon dylous (Zool.). Showing partial calcification of cartillaginous vertebral centra in the form

of concenting tings.

cyclothy'mia (Mcd.). Manic-depressive psychosis, cyclothy'mia (Mcd.). Manic-depressive psychosis, cyclothor (Thermionich). An arrangement of two dees in the field of a powerful magnet, in which a beam of charged particles of atomic magnitude is constanted to move in a spiral and is continuously accelerated by the alternating high-frequency potential difference applied to the dees.

Cyclothy are a spiral and is confirmed to the dees.

members of which are spherical or cylindrical in form, and possess two tentacles, retractile into sheaths.

cyclis (Court.). Pregnancy.

Cylinder. A soild of uniform cross-section which may be generated by a straight line moving ground a closed curve and remaining parallel to a given direction (the aria). What is usually for which the closed curve and remaining parallel to a understood by the word is a right circular cylinder is perpendicular to the axis of the cylinder.

Cylinder (Enp.). The tubular chamber in which the piston of an engine or pump reciprocate; the internal indumeter is called the borr, cylinder arreal (Enp.). The wall of an engine cylinder, as distinct from the cylinder itself, which cylinder of heliow Cylinder calson (Cir. Enp.). So cylinder core (Enp.). So cylinder cover (Enp.). So cylinder always one above water-level, while the bottom proceeds within the cylinder, the londed sections always one above water-level, while the bottom proceeds within the cylinder, the londed sections diby, the cylinder is a special cutting section. As excavation sink, and when they have reached a sufficient cylinder of a reciprocating support or harder cover (Enp.). The end cover of the cylinder escapement (Iloval). The end cover of cylinder escapement (Iloval). The couple wheel gives impulse to the balance by pressing that of a reciprocating support the couple wheel gives impulse to the balance by pressing that of a wedge. The scape wheel is locked by or harder of the cylinder, and a stall and stall and stall entitle of the cylinder. The secape wheel is considered to consider the couple of the cylinder. The secape wheel is considered to consider the consider the consider the consider the consider the consideration of the cylinder. The secape wheel is considered the cylinder of the cylinder, and a stall and stall are mounted on 'stalls' and stand at the entry of the teeth into the wedge. The sylinder is cut away where the

"Sylinder head (Eng.). The closed end of the cylinder of an internal-combustion sughts, it may be either integral with the barrel or detachable, and sometimes carries the valves. "With fligh viscosity, suitable for use in steam machiners oils, (Lubricants). Dark or red oils and internal-combustion engine cylinders. See Cylinder press (Typos). (J A profing press of which pressure is applied by means of a rolling cylinder.—(2) A general term used to distinguish cylinder printing machines from hand presses and

Cylinder top (Furn.). A semicircular cover to a desk etc., sliding in a groove.

Cylinder wrench (Flumb.). See pipe wrench, cylinderleal. Elongated, and circular in cross-

cylindrical gauge (Eng.). A length gauge of cylindrical form whose length and diameter are cylindrical form whose length and diameter are cylindrical grinding (Eng.). The operation of speed abrasive wheel. The work is rotated by the headstock of the machine and the wheel is automatically traversed along it under a copious flow

of coolant.

cylindrical lens (Photor). A lens cut in the shape of a segment of a cylinder, i.e. a shape generated by a straight line moving parallel to likelf and trading an arc of a circle on a normal plane. Used to obtain a line image, as in sound

recording on film or in reproducing from a sound cylindrical record (Acous). The Edison-type of gramophone record, in which the reproducing needle traverses a spiral (helical) record on its

succession of the state of the

cymbiform (Bot.). Shaped like a boat.
cymbium (Zoot.). In some male Spiders, the cup-shaped tareus of the pedipalpus, containing the palpal organ.
cyme (Bot.). An inforescence in which the main asis and in a flower, and in which subsequent cynowers are produced at the endis of internal axes or of successive branches from these.—adj. cy

cymene (Cham.), CH.,CH(CH.), toppropylcypenethylbentane, b.p. 176° C.
cynomic test (Radio, An early form of waveneter
comprising a helix surrounded by an adjustable
tube. Reconance is indicated by the glowing of a
neon lamp connected to the helix.
cymophane (Min.), A variety of the gen-mineral
cymophane (Min.), A variety of the gen-mineral
cymophane (Min.), Charlety of the gen-mineral

cypress knee (Bot.). A vertical upgrowth from the roots of the swamp cypress. It is very loose in structure, and acts as a pneumatophore of the symmony of the construction of the construction of cypsels (Bot.). A one-sected fruit, formed from a syncarpous, liferior ovary.

cyst., cysto. (Greek kurit, bladder). A prefix used in the construction of compound terms; e.g. cysticolaud (47. M.).

cyst (Zood.). A non-living membrane enclosing a cell or cells: any bladder-like structure, as the gail-bladder or the urinary bladder of Vortic brates: as one containing the products of furnities in secondary cystical, cysticolar, cystical, cystical, cystic, pertaining to the urinary bladder: cystic acteomas (Mach.). A form of parenchyma cystic acteomas (Mach.). An adenoma concurring to the urinary bladder: cystic acteomas (Mach.). An adenoma concurring the pertaining to the urinary bladder: cystics acteomas (Mach.). An adenoma concurring the cystics acteomas (Mach.). A bladderworm of which the cystics cold (Look.). A bladderworm of which the crops a special cold (Look.). A bladderworm of which the cold cold.).

bladder is but slightly developed and may posses

a fall-like appendage.

e grafticercos dis (drd.). Infection with cyaticerci.

g cyaticercos (as (drd.). Infection with cyaticerci.

ta cyaticercous (Zool.). A studien, elongated, sterile cyatif vitum (Bod.). A swollen, elongated, sterile hyphn, occurring among the basidia of the hymenium of some Hymenomycrac, usually projecting beyond the surface of the hymenium.

cyston (2004.), A dactylozoold specialised for exception onate and organic material, present in some

cystos copy (Surg.). The inspection of the interior of the bladder with a cystoscope of the bladder with a cystoscope after the division of a single protopinat. cystospore (Bod.). An encysted zoospore Cystos (Surg.). Surgical formation of an opening in the bladder. cys'toscope (Surg.). An instrument for inspecting the interior of the bladder.

computing a helix surrounded by an adjustable, computing a helix surrounded by an adjustable, tubb. Resonance is indicated by the glowing of a neon insuppring a helix surrounded by an adjustable tubb. Resonance is indicated by the glowing of a neon insupprince (Min.). A variety of the gen-mineral and pouches, and therefore in the form of holiow sacs; e.g., in celebrate and sarabete term for any construction of an analysis and therefore in the form of holiow sacs; e.g., in colous (Zool.). In Canadiaconia. Cyt., cyto. (Greek kylor, holiow, cell). A press trace of the stanned so forme licine.

spheric (Rol.). A small cup-shaped holiow in the ornstruction of compound terms; cytose (Bod.). A cellisted pelagio lavel to the stanned sphere. (Bod.). A vertical upgrowth from the corporate test (Zool.). A cellisted pelagio lavel to the stanned sphere. (Bod.). A vertical upgrowth from the created fruit, formed from the nucleus in the cytoplasm.

cytose (Bod.). A non-seeded fruit, formed from the nucleus in the cytoplasm.

cytose (Bod.). A non-seeded fruit, formed from the nucleus in the cytoplasm.

cytose (Bod.). A non-seeded fruit, formed from the nucleus in the cytoplasm.

cytose (Bod.). A non-seeded fruit, bindder). A press.

cytose (Bod.). A non-seeded fruit, formed from the nucleus in the cytoplasm.

cytose (Bod.). A non-seeded fruit, bindder). A press.

cytose (Bod.). A non-seeded fruit, bindder). A press.

cytose (Bod.). A non-seeded fruit, formed from the nucleus in nucleus inucleus in nucleus in nucleus in nucleus in nucleus in nucleus in

cyto-architecton'ic (Med.). Pertaining to the disposition of cells in a tissue.

position of cells in a tissue.

cyto-cheris's mus (Zool.). In experimental embryology, partial separation of cells after one division and prior to the next division. A group of hazmachromogens* (q.v.) very widely distributed in living cells and of great importance in cell oxidations, acting as

intermediate hydrogen carriers, cyclede (Biol.). A mass of protoplasm without a nucleus. Cyclodisfresis (Ch.). See mitosis. Cyclodisfresis (Ch.). See mitosis. See conjugation or union of cells, See conjugation. The formation and development of cells.